(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons at present suffering in India from IDD; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to ensure adequate intake of iodised salt by persons to get rid of IDD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Besides goitre, the other Iodine Deficiency Disorders are physical and mental retardation, squint, cretinism, deaf-mutism, still birth, abortion, neuromotor defects etc. Iodine Deficiency Disorders surveys conducted by Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research and the State Health Directorates have revealed that out of 321 districts surveyed covering 35 States/UTs 260 districts are endemic to IDD i.e. where the prevalence rate of IDD is more that 10%. It is estimated that the number of people presently suffering from Iodine Deficiency Disorders is about 70 million.

(d) In order to prevent and control the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDDs), the Government is implementing National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme in the country. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is providing financial assistance for establishment of IDD Control Cell and IDD Monitoring Laboratory to the States/UTs for effective implementation of National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme. Office of the Salt Commissioner, functioning under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in the Government of India, is engaged in the planning of production and distribution of iodised salt to meet the required demand in the country.

In order to increase the consumption of iodised salt, the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities have been intensified in all the States/UTs through Prasar Bharati, All India Radio, Song & Drama Division, Directorate of Field Publicity and Directorate of Advertisement and Visual Publicity (DAVP) besides allocation of fund to the State Governments for health education at the State level.

Heart Disease in Delhi

3980. SHRI V. NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Delhities are suffering from heart ailment; and

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any study for such heart ailment and if so, remedial measures taken thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, there is no data available from any long term epidemiological cohort study which indicates an increasing trend in number of persons suffering from heart diseases in Delhi. However, it has been observed from different cross sectional surveys and hospital statistics of different hospitals located in Delhi that there is an increasing trend of heart diseases in Delhi. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has initiated steps to obtain the 'in principle' approval of the Planning Commission to start a National Programme on Prevention of Cardio Vascular Diseases.

Health Melas in NE Region

3981. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to organise Health Melas in NER to create awareness and provide health services to the people of the region;

(b) if so, the details of the Health Melas organised in the NER during the last two years; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The proposal to organize Health Melas in all constituencies in N.E. Region is currently under consideration.

During 2003-2004, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India observed "Swasthya Jagrukta Maah" from 15 Janaury, 2004 to 15 February, 2004 and released funds @ Rs. 8.00 lacs per Lok Sabha Constituency. In N.E. States, funds were released for organising Health Melas as follows:—

1. Arunachal Pradesh—2

2. Assam—14